

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 USIE-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03

SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

IO-14 DPW-01 L-03 DRC-01 /086 W

----- 043486

Z R 220505Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 1038

THE WHITE HOUSE FLASH

INFO USLO PEKING

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

S E C R E T SAIGON 01000

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PFOR VS PF

SUBJECT: PARACELS

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THIS MORNING FROM THE PALACE, FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND FROM GENERAL VIEN, CHIEF OF THE JGS, THAT THE GVN FEELS COMPELLED TO LAUNCH AN AIR/SEA RESCUE OPERATION FOR POSSIBLE SURVIVORS IN THE WATERS BETWEEN THE PARACELS AND SOUTH VIET-NAM. THEY WILL CONDUCT THIS SEARCH WITHIN A PARALLELOGRAM BOUNDED BY THE FOLLOWING COORDINATES:

A. 15 DEGREES 30 MINUTES AND 28 SECONDS NORTH AND 126 DEGREES 00 MINUTES AND 18 SECONDS EAST.

B. 14 DEGREES 50 MINUTES AND 30 SECONDS NORTH AND 110 DEGREES 40 MINUTES 27 SECONDS EAST.

C. 15 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 36 SECONDS NORTH AND 111 DEGREES 10 MINUTES AND 00 SECONDS EAST.

D. 16 DEGREES 00 MINUTES AND 00 SECONDS NORTH AND 110 DEGREES 40 MINUTES AND 48 SECONDS EAST.

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THE RESCUE TEAM WILL CONSIST OF HQ 6 (PCE), TWO WATER PATROL BOATS (WPBS), AND ONE C-119 AIRCRAFT.

2. THEY ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH FATE OF CREW OF HQ 10 WHICH, WHEN LAST SEEN, WAS OUT OF CONTROL SOMEWHERE NEAR MONEY ISLAND. NORMAL OCEAN CURRENTS WOULD HAVE DRIFTED THIS SHIP, OR IF SHIP SUNK, ITS SURVIVORS SOME 70 MILES SW TO THE AREA BOUNDED BY THE COORDINATES LISTED ABOVE.

3. GVN FONMIN WILL ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENT THIS AFTERNOON DESCRIBING NATURE AND PURPOSE OF MISSION, LISTING THE COORDINATES, IN THE HOPE THIS WILL BE PICKED UP BY PEKING.

4. THEY ARE INSTRUCTING THEIR MISSION IN GENEVA TO IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY ICRC OF FOREGOING AND REQUEST ICRC TO NOTIFY PEKING OF NATURE AND EXTENT OF OPERATION.

5. GVN HAS ALSO REQUESTED USG TO "UTILIZE ITS DIRECT COMMUNICATION FACILITIES" TO PEKING IN ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY EFFORT TO INSURE PEKING'S AWARENESS OF WHOLLY HUMANITARIAN NATURE OF OPERATION.

6. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH EITHER THROUGH PRC LIAISON MISSION IN WASHINGTON OR USLO PEKING TO REQUEST PRC TO NOTIFY ITS MILITARY AUTHORITIES OF ABOVE. DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH TO INSTRUCT US MISSION GENEVA TO FACILITATE CONTACT BETWEEN GVN MISSION AND ICRC.

7. WE WILL FORWARD TEXT OF GVN FOREIGN OFFICE STATEMENT AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.

8. REQUEST WE BE ADVISED WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, IS TAKEN BY DEPARTMENT.

MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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